

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00193 301957Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00

NEA-11 SAJ-01 MC-02 EB-11 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 005769

R 301815Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4299

INFO USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

IOMICEDFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0193

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: SPLIT ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS IN
PROGRESSIVE PARTY

REF: REYKJAVIK 174 AND A-8

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THERE HAD LONG BEEN INTERNAL DISAGREEMENT
WITHIN PROGRESSIVE PARTY ON DEFENSE POLICY, THE RECENTLY-ORGANIZED
PETITION CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERMINATION OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND
PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE BROUGHT PROGRESSIVE
PARTY TO ACRIMONIOUS INFIGHTING AND TO VERGE OF OPEN
FRAGMENTATION. END SUMMARY

2. COALITION GOVERNMENT PLATFORM STATING THAT DEFENSE AGREEMENT
SHOULD BE REVIEWED "WITH A VIEW TOWARDS DEPARTURE" OF IDF WAS
WALLPAPER CONVENIENTLY COVERING CRACKS SEPARATING THREE PARTIES
WHICH MAKE UP COALITION. IT ALSO COVERED CRACKS AMONG FACTIONS
WITHIN PROGRESSIVE PARTY. ON DEFENSE MATTER, THOSE FACTIONS ARE:

(1) IDEALISTIC YOUNGER LEFT-WINGERS WHO ARE ALLIED WITH OLDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00193 301957Z

ISOLATIONISTS AND RURAL-ORIENTED ELEMENTS, (2) MIDDLE-OF-THE

ROAD LEADERS WHOSE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO KEEP PARTY UNITED AND GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE, AND (3) COOPERATIVE-ORIENTED RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS WHO MANAGE SOME OF ICELAND'S LARGEST BUSINESSES, WHO ARE IMPORTANT IN FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE PARTY, BUT WHO HAVE LARGELY SAT ON THEIR HANDS ON DEFENSE ISSUE. IT IS LAST GROUP WHICH HAS NOW BEEN GALVANIZED INTO ACTION AND IS CAUSING PARTY LEADERS TROUBLE.

3. WHEN PARTY SECRETARY STEINGRIMUR HERMANNSSON LEAPED ON THE LEFT-WING BANDWAGON AND WHEN PRO-BASE PETITION WAS STARTED (REFAIR) NUMBER OF RIGHT WING PROGRESSIVES SIGNED PETITION AND STARTED TO ORGANIZE CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT SIGNATURES AMONG PROGRESSIVES. THEY PLANNED NEWSPAPER APPEAL OVER SIGNATURE OF SOME 100-120 PROMINENT PROGRESSIVES. HOWEVER, THEY RAN UP AGAINST DETERMINED OPPOSITION OF PRIME MINISTER JOHANNESSON, FONMIN AGUSTSSON, PARTY ELDER STATESMAN EYSTEINN JONSSON, AND ALTHING PARTY LEADER AND EDITOR OF TIMINN THORARINN THORARINSSON. THERE HAVE SO FAR BEEN THREE ACRIMONIOUS MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER ON ISSUE BUT MATTER REMAINS UNRESOLVEDM BACKERS INSIST, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE PUBLISHED AND IF PARTY NEWSPAPER TIMINN REFUSES DTO CARRY IT, THEY ARE CERTAIN OPPOSITION MORGUNBLADID WILL BE HAPPY TO.

4. SPLIT HAS ALSO INVOLVED PARTY'S ALTHING GROUP. WHEN AGUSTSSON'S PROPOSED SOLUTION ON DEFENSE WAS SUBMITTED TO PARTY EXECUTIVE, FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PASSED:

"THE PROPOSALS FROM THE ALTHING GROUP OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY ON JANUARY 25, 1974. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DECLARES ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THESE PROPOSALS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD EXHORTS MEMBERS OF THE PARTY TO SUPPORT THE SOLUTION FOUND IN THESE PROPOSALS AND TO AVOID PARTICIPATION IN ANY FORM OF SIGNATURE COLLECTION DRIVES ABOUT DEFENSE AFFAIRS."

5. TIMINN REPORTED THIS RESOLUTION WITH COMMENT IT HAD BEEN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MORGUNBLADID HAS SINCE LEARNED THAT EXCHANGES AT MEETING WERE SO SHARP THAT THREE MEMBERS LEFT BEFORE VOTE WAS TAKEN. FOUR OTHERS ABSTAINED AND RESOLUTION THUS PASSED WITH ONLY NINE VOTES OUT OF SIXTEEN. IT WAS THIS VOTE AND TIMINN REPORTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 REYKJA 00193 301957Z

OF IT WHICH FORCED PRO-IDF ALTHING MEMBER JON SKAFTASON TO ISSUE PERSONAL STATEMENT REPORTED REFTTEL. THOSE WHO LEFT MEETING WERE ERLENDER EINARSSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COOPS: HELGI BERGS, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL BANK: AND TOMAS ARNASON, DIRECTOR OF STATE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE.

6. IN MEANTIME, PETITION CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO GO WELL WITH BACKERS CLAIMING MORE THAN 15,000 SIGNATURES. IRVING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA00193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974015/aaaaaeou.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: REYKJAVIK 174 AND A-8
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: SPLIT ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005